

We should remember, too, the terrible hardships our Korean War veterans endured. The deadly cold, the weeks and months spent crammed in foxholes and bunkers dug into an unbelievably rugged and harsh terrain. They faced an enemy of overwhelming numbers ready to torture and brutalize. They were locked in hand-to-hand combat on "Heartbreak Ridge" and "Porkchop Hill" and confronted the world's fastest fighter jets in "Mig Alley." Today's military history records that our Korean veterans set a standard of courage that may be matched, but which will never be surpassed. Ordinary men and women who showed extraordinary courage.

Chiseled in silver on the Korean War memorial are the words "Freedom is not free." The men and women who served in Korea and the family and friends of those 36,914 who never returned and those thousands of Americans who were lost in Korea and whose bodies to this day have never been found demonstrate the high and precious cost of freedom. We should never forget that these patriots paid the price one at a time when they were swept away in the treacherous tides of Inchon or died defending the perimeter of Pusan, or froze to death by the hundreds at Choson reservoir or in the long march out. Their families will never forget their sacrifice and neither will we.

Now on this hot, sunny summer day 46 years after the July armistice, we have a new reason to remember those who left home and struggled to stop the spread of aggression, for we now know that it was these veterans who took the first resolute action to stem the expansion of communism, and in doing so helped change the course of history. Now we know it took four more decades to win the battle against communism, but having witnessed the collapse of the Berlin Wall and its aftermath we know that those who served in Korea laid the foundations for one of the greatest victories in the history of mankind: the free world triumph over communism.

As we leave this memorial, this observance, let us be reminded the Korean War is not a forgotten war. It is a war most worthy of remembrance. Let us, on behalf of all the free people of the world, remember the men and women who died not only in the Korean War, but in all our wars. Finally, let us give thanks to those men and women who have given their lives for our freedom, and give thanks to God for them and for those who stand guard over America today, defending and preserving our freedom.

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to stop over-spending on defense and start spending on the needs of our children. We need to put children first.

Our military spending is still at Cold War levels. Each year, we allocate more than half of federal discretionary spending to military efforts. In contrast, for education, that figure is less than 9 percent. As a nation, we rank 1st in military spending but only 10th globally in spending for education. It should then come as no surprise, that in a recent international study of 21 industrialized nations the students of the United States ranked 19th in math and science performance.

This Congress voted to increase the Pentagon's budget by 112 billion dollars over the next six years. Incredibly, that is nearly the same amount of money needed to repair the nation's schools according to a report by the General Accounting Office.

Our schools are in dire need of assistance. Many are crumbling, cracking, and splitting at the seams. That same GAO report informed us that 14 million pupils nationwide are being educated in unsatisfactory environments. These children are attending school in facilities that either need extensive structural repair or the replacement of one or more buildings. In my home state of Michigan, for example, more than 1 in 5 schools have at least one building in need of serious repair, and more than half of Michigan's schools have at least one serious environmental health problem.

We all accept the fact that learning environment affects the quality of the education our children receive. I ask you: "How do we expect our children to learn, when we do not give them the clean and safe places to do so?" We need to get the asbestos out of the classrooms. We need to get children out of trailers and portable classrooms. We need to fix leaking roofs, repair plumbing facilities and ensure each student is studying under adequate light.

Ms. Lenora Starks, a constituent of mine, recently wrote to me. She was concerned that we weren't doing enough to help our public schools. "We must ensure," she wrote, "that our students have a proper learning environment. In too many schools, efforts to improve student achievement are hampered by inadequate and deteriorating facilities."

Ms. Starks can see our priorities. She sees that this Congress has not been putting children first and is worried about what that means for our nation's future.

We need to put children first by increasing spending on Head Start. Rather than giving an excess of 17 billion unrequested dollars to the bloated Pentagon budget, we could fully fund Head Start for the next five years. And this funding is critical. Because of inadequate federal funding, Head Start is only able to serve 30 percent of eligible children. Lack of federal fund also causes most children to wait until the age of four to enter the program, when evidence supports earlier intervention is more effective.

Children are also adversely affected by a lack of financial commitment to low-income families and to impoverished neighborhoods. One example is the malignant neglect of the childcare crisis in this country. The 105th Congress only provided 182 million dollars this year to improve the quality of children care in this country. This fell far short of the estimated 7.5 billion dollars needed to provide safe and affordable child care for working families. Full-day child care costs up to 10,000 per year, yet half of America's families with young children earn less than 35,000 per year. Child care in low-income communities must be a priority if parents are going to be able to seize opportunities to provide for their children.

Regarding neighborhoods, support for Community Development Block Grants, which have a long history of providing economic aid to underserved areas, is declining. In the city of Detroit, CDBG funding has declined from 130.1

million to 51.3 million over the past 19 years. For fiscal year 2000, current proposals by this Congress would continue the downward trend. With one in five American children living in poverty, cuts to CDBGs undoubtedly affect their futures. Studies show that poor children are less likely to finish school, are at heightened risk of stunted growth and other health problems and contribute less to our economy as adults. We must restore the CDBGs to their original vitality and reverse the years of cut-backs if we really want to help the youngest victims of poverty.

Congress also misdirects spending by failing to support youth employment initiatives. While increasing the Pentagon's budget over the past two years, Congress has concurrently cut youth job training by 80 percent and federal support for summer jobs for young people. Young people must have avenues to pursue their dreams.

We need to reprioritize our allocation of funds in this nation. We need to put children first. This is not a choice, this is a must.

TITLE IX AND ROLE OF U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I raise my voice in praise of title IX and the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team.

There is no doubt in my mind that title IX has been successful in expanding opportunities for women in athletics. Before title IX, women represented only 1 percent of college athletes, and virtually no athletic scholarships went to women. Because of title IX, more than 100,000 women now participate in intercollegiate college sports.

The purpose of title IX is to provide the same opportunities for women in education as men. While we celebrate the great strides that women have made in competitive athletics, we should also recognize that title IX has made an impact and opened doors in other areas of education.

The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team, our 1999 Women's World Cup champions, they certainly made it clear that women can make a tremendous contribution to sports. These dedicated, determined, and accomplished young women make me proud to be associated with the cause of getting more girls and women involved with sports and fitness.

Title IX and the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team have changed the playing field for girls and women in athletics. But since title IX was passed in 1972, there has been a world of change in our expectations of what women can achieve.

Women like Mia Hamm and Michelle Akers on the soccer field, and Colonel Eileen Collins, who is commander of the shuttle flight Columbia, they have shown the skeptics that women can

successfully participate in every walk of American life. They are all long-distance runners in the challenge and the struggle to raise the status of women in our society.

When I was growing up, most people thought that girls were not as interested in sports as boys. Consequently, girls were discouraged from participating in sports activities. Now research by the Women's Sports Foundation shows that, on the contrary, boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 9 are equally interested in sports participation. By the age of 14, however, girls drop out of sports participation at a rate six times greater than boys. Something must have happened.

Now, after the U.S. Women's Soccer Team has won the 1999 Women's World Cup, young girls have aspirational and inspiration role models that will no doubt increase their participation in sports. They are growing up and appreciating the sports skills of women, and they see images of themselves excelling in sports.

Young women who participate in sports are more likely to finish school, less likely to have an unwanted pregnancy. The availability of athletic scholarships has enabled more women to pursue a college education and has opened opportunities for women at dozens of colleges.

Let me just point out the health benefits of regular and rigorous physical exercise are extensive. Studies show that women who participate in sports actually lower their risk of breast cancer and are 92 percent less likely to be involved with drugs. There are also psychological benefits. Young women who play sports have a higher level of self-esteem, a lower incidence of depression, and a more positive body image.

I am sure that, all over America, young girls are achieving success on the athletic field and thinking about growing up to be soccer or basketball stars. Others are applying themselves to their studies, and they are dreaming about becoming scientists or engineers or even Members of Congress.

These young women can feel safe and secure in their dreams because title IX will be there to protect them from the barriers of discrimination.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the fiscal year 2000 budget. Adoption of the budget is the most important job that Congress performs. Like a sound business or well-run household, our budget establishes our priorities for the next year.

The news of our income for the next year looks amazingly good. The Presi-

dent's Office of Management and Budget is estimating a \$99 billion surplus, including Social Security monies. However, without Social Security, we have a deficit. If we protect Social Security incomes, the surplus drops to \$5 billion.

OMB's 10-year projection of \$1 trillion surplus may be a dangerous phantom. There is a surplus only if we include Social Security funds. Without Social Security funds, we will have a deficit.

The available surplus is much smaller than what we think. When all of the figures are calculated in a responsible manner, our surplus is more like \$112 billion, hardly enough to afford the almost \$800 billion 10-year tax cut package that the Republicans are considering.

Two of this administration's enormous accomplishments are the substantial reduction of a deficit and a buoyant economy. In good economic times, a wise family makes certain that the essentials for a decent household is that the soundness of the physical foundations are in tact, a good roof, a good basement, sound plumbing and wiring, adequate nutrition, basic health care, excellent schools, a healthy neighborhood, adequate infrastructure, transportation, clean air and clean water.

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This is what we all want for our families. What a business aspires to have is a sound basis of operation, and that is what we want for our Nation.

Congress' work is to look at our income of hard-earned tax money and use this money to provide a decent and functioning Nation; a Nation which we all can be proud of, a Nation of well-educated people, well housed, well fed, healthy, with a decent regard for themselves and for each other and the common good. We must have serious priorities for the serious business of being a sound Nation.

Now, the majority cuts taxes for the rich and ignores problems that are screaming for attention. We must pay down our debts to lower our interest rates, but we must also respond to our housing problems. We have over 5.5 million households that are in substandard housing. In my district alone, the waiting list for housing assistance opened for 1 day in May of 1997, and 15,000 applicants stood in line for a waiting list running up to 5 years. In my county of Alameda, the wait list has been closed since 1991. Taking care of our housing stock should be one of our national priorities.

Over 43 million do not have health coverage. In California, among working families of employed single adults with children, 55 percent have no insurance. The number of uninsured children has increased by 25 percent during these amazing economic times. About 8 million Californians are not covered at all.

Prescription drugs are being priced out of the reach of seniors, and I fully support the President's plan to address this need. Provision of essential prescriptions should be one of our national priorities.

There will be more students. Our classrooms are crowded. A record 52.7 million children are enrolled in elementary and secondary schools, and this number will climb to 54.3 million by 2008. We do not train our teachers sufficiently, and we do not pay our teachers sufficiently. We do not have enough teachers. We do not have enough counselors. We do not have enough school buildings, and much of what we have is aging and must be rehabilitated. Most of our schools are not connected to the Internet. The Republican tax bill is silent on these issues and all of these needs. These educational needs must be one of our national priorities for attention.

Almost 70 percent of this tax freedom bill, as it is called, goes to reduce taxes of the wealthiest 10 percent of the people, with incomes over \$204,000 a year. Only 9 percent of this bill goes toward reducing the taxes of about 70 percent of our people.

There is hunger in our cities and there is hunger in many of our rural areas. The Washington Post reported that our military personnel and their families depend upon second and third jobs, food stamps, and cast-away furniture in order to feed and house their families. Eliminating hunger should be a national priority. Providing adequate wages for working people should be a national priority.

This is our chance to do what is right. This is our chance. Our rivers can be cleaned, our air can be improved. This is our chance to take care of the physical conditions of our environs; a program to continue our Superfund and brown fields cleanup, reforestation, and preservation of endangered species.

We have important and essential work to do together to recognize that the priorities of our country should be putting people first. It should ensure that we make our country strong, physically, socially and economically.

ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to also talk about where we go on the budget and also where we have been on this budget.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans were elected as a majority back in 1995. For almost every year before that, for the previous 40 years, the Democrat majority in this House used every cent of the Social Security surplus and spent it on other government programs. When Republicans came in, in 1995, we came in